

For Immediate Release

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Concrete's 2009 – 2010 Season Celebrates Twenty Years

Concrete Theatre is excited to announce its 20th season of thought-provoking and engaging theatre for young audiences. Artistic Co-directors Caroline Howarth and Mieko Ouchi are thrilled that this season will include two world premieres of Canadian plays commissioned by Concrete Theatre.

We kick off our 20th Anniversary Season with a birthday party on September 26th, 2009 at the Catalyst Theatre. Join us for a romp through Concrete's most beloved shows and celebrate twenty years of inspiring and exciting theatre.

Routes, by award-winning Edmonton playwright and actor Collin Doyle, tours in November during Family Violence Prevention Month with assistance from The Support Network, YOUNCAN, Red Cross RespectEd Program and Rat Creek Design. This riveting one-man play that delves into the impact of public and private acts of violence stars Sheldon Elter. Our world premiere production will be touring to Edmonton area Junior and Senior High Schools from Nov 2-27, with three performances at Saskatoon's Persephone Theatre. Public performances will take place at Catalyst Nov 5, 6 and 7, 2009.

In February, we present the world premiere of *The Early Bloomer* by Edmonton improviser and playwright Jana O'Connor. Follow Maisy Daisy and her best buds in their hilarious adventures in the 5th Row of the Garden Plot, as Maisy faces the embarrassing challenges of being the first to "bloom"! Touring Elementary Schools Feb 1-19, with public performances on Feb 12 and 13, 2010 at the Stanley A. Milner Library Theatre. This 50-minute production grew from a seed planted at Concrete's *Sprouts New Play Festival for Kids* in 2006.

Spring brings the record-breaking 13th tour of the Sterling Award winning *Are We There Yet?* by Jane Heather, touring to Grade 9 audiences across Alberta for 8 weeks from March 22 through May 14, 2010. This 90-minute participatory play explores sexuality, relationships, birth control and boundaries appropriate for Grade 9 students and covers the Alberta Health curriculum.

Wrapping up Concrete's 20th season will be the *Sprouts New Play Festival for Kids* on June 12 and 13, 2010 with a fresh crop of four brand new short plays for children and their families. This groundbreaking greenhouse for new works for children was the first of its kind in Canada, and has inspired similar festivals in Toronto and Calgary. This year's festival will include a 20th Birthday Celebration and book launch for a brand new *Sprouts Anthology* published by Playwrights Canada Press, of 15 scripts from past festivals.